



Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Statement

1. Credition Town Council (CTC) recognises the importance of its services to children and young people and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people, making sure that all necessary steps are taken in the event of a disclosure.
2. CTC is committed to:
 - Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection
 - Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
 - Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
 - Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all appropriate checks are made
 - Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
 - Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with young people and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
 - Adopting procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse
 - Supporting those affected by abuse
 - Maintaining good links with statutory childcare authorities and other young people's organisations
 - Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
 - Making sure that young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
 - Using our procedures to manage any allegations made against staff and volunteers
 - Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
 - Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people, and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns



- Ensuring all members of staff have access to the current legislation around safeguarding children.

Organisation Policy

3. CTC recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. It also acknowledges that young people can be the victims of physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect.
4. Therefore, an adopted set of procedures are set out in this document (the policy) and CTC recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies.
5. CTC is committed to ongoing safeguarding training for all youth workers and will regularly review its operational guidelines.
6. CTC will work in accordance with relevant current legislation, alongside the following documentation:
 - *What To Do If a Child Is Being Abused (DfES 2006)*
 - *Working Together To Safeguard Children (DfE 2018)*

What is Safeguarding?

7. Safeguarding and promoting welfare of children means:
 - Protecting children from mistreatment
 - Preventing impairment of children's health and growth
 - Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
 - Undertaking that role to enable those children to have optimum life chances.
8. Child abuse falls into four categories:
 - Physical
 - Sexual
 - Emotional
 - Neglect.



Responding to disclosure of abuse

9. Under no circumstances should any CTC officer carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of the allegations or suspicions will do the following:
 - React in a calm and non-judgemental way
 - Never promise complete confidentiality, advising the child or young persons that the officer will have to share the information that they are given onto a third party, ie. Social Services
 - Listen to what the child or young person has to say and ask appropriate and open questions, making sure not to ask leading question as this could jeopardise a police investigation
 - Never probe the child or young person for information
 - Ensure that the child or young person understands what they are told by the professional, using appropriate language
 - Report concerns as soon as possible to the CTC Youth Worker
 - If suspicions in any way involve the Youth Worker, concerns should be reported to the Town Clerk
 - Discuss concerns with the parent or carer if appropriate
 - Record discussions in the child or young person's words. Do not elaborate or correct grammar
 - Maintain a relationship with the child or young person where appropriate
 - Record all contact for chronology
 - Contact Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk and give as much information as you can
 - If a child is at immediate risk contact the police on 999
 - Referrals must be followed up within 48 hours.

10. It is the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to child protection agencies or to seek advice from Social Services should they feel it is appropriate. It is Social Services' task to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Disclosure of physical, emotional abuse or neglect

11. If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or emotional abuse, the Youth Worker will:
 - Contact Social Services to seek advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about safety or the child/young person is afraid to return home
 - Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.



Appointment, support, supervision and training of leaders and workers

12. CTC will ensure that all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in accordance with government guidance.
13. CTC will ensure that all workers (paid or voluntary) have an enhanced DBS check and work in accordance with the Vetting and Barring Service.